



STATE OF MICHIGAN

**Family
Independence
Agency**

235 S. Grand Avenue
PO Box 30037
Lansing, MI 48909
Tel: (517) 373-2035
Fax: (517) 373-8471
www.mfia.state.mi.us

DOUGLAS E. HOWARD, Director

News Release

Contact: Maureen Sorbet
MFIA Office of Communications

Phone: (517) 373-7394

Date: February 13, 2002

Welfare caseload increased in January

LANSING – Family Independence Agency Director Douglas E. Howard announced today the January Family Independence Program (FIP) caseload was 76,662. The December 2001 caseload was 75,792.

Howard said, “Because the members of the legislature expected increased unemployment during the current quarter, they adjusted our budget in advance. As a result, we’re in a good position to provide temporary assistance to families who have been affected by changes in the job market.”

While the caseload has been increasing over the past year, it is still down 66.2 percent from the most recent high of 226,863 in March 1994.

Governor John Engler said, “Even in current economic conditions, 57 percent of public assistance recipients required to work are working. We will continue to support their efforts to work with increased day care and food assistance.”

Of the 76,662 cases in January, about 30,500 families (or about 40 percent) were required to participate in Work First and expected to work. Of the balance, about 23,000 were relatives raising children and about 23,000 had a temporary condition that excluded them from the employment requirements.

January data also show families received day care for 120,381 children. The total Food Assistance Program caseload was 327,620 households representing 752,003 individuals. Since December 2000, this caseload has increased by 72,697 households, or 28.5 percent.

###

For more information consult the FIA website at www.mfia.state.mi.us



JOHN ENGLER, Governor